

Message Text

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SUBJ: ROMANIA SOMEWHAT DOWNGRADES OBSERVANCE OF
GREAT OCTOBER REVOLUTION

1. ROMANIAN PRESS COVERAGE OF EVENTS SURROUNDING 56TH
ANNIVERSARY OF GREAT OCTOBER REVOLUTION SHOWS SLIGHT
BUT CLEARLY DISCERNABLE DOWNGRADING OF OCCASION'S

IMPORTANCE AS COMPARED WITH RECENT PAST. CEAUSESCU-MAURER
MESSAGE TO SOVIET LEADERS SLIGHTLY COOLER THAN LAST YEAR'S;
SCINTEIA ARTICLE ON ANNIVERSARY MENTIONS NEED FOR
"AUTONOMY, EQUALITY IN RIGHTS, AND STRICT RESPECT FOR
RIGHT OF EVERY PARTY TO WORK OUT ITS INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL
POLICIES INDEPENDENTLY," A THEME ABSENT FROM SIMILAR
ARTICLE LAST YEAR; SCINTEIA GIVES ABOUT 15 PER CENT
LESS SPACE THIS YEAR THAN LAST TO THE OCCASION; AND LEVEL
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OF ATTENDANCE AT "FESTIVE MEETING," WHILE IMPRESSIVE,

WAS LOWER THAN IN PAST TWO YEARS. RE LATTER POINT, THREE FULL EXCO MEMBERS, INCLUDING VERDET, WERE PRESENT LAST YEAR WHILE ONLY ONE, GHEORGHE RADULESCU, ATTENDED THIS TIME. THIS YEAR'S SPEECH WAS DELIVERED BY MIN OF HEAVY MACHINE BUILDING IOAN AVRAM VICE LAST YEAR'S EXCO MEMBER AND DEP PREMIER EMIL DRAGANESCU. HOWEVER, SOV AMBASSADOR'S RECEPTION--WHICH DREW PRESIDUM MEMBERS MAURER AND BODNARAS TWO YEARS AGO AND BODNARAS AND VERDET LAST YEAR--HAD TWO PERMANENT PRESIDUM MEMBERS AGAIN THIS YEAR, GHEORGHE PANA AND GHEORGHE RADULESCU. FURTHERMORE, SOVIET RECEPTION BROUGHT FORTH USUAL EXTENSIVE TURNOUT OF SECONDARY ROMANIAN FIGURES, INCLUDING MANY OF CC RANK WHO DO NOT APPEAR AT MOST DIPLOMATIC RECEPTIONS.

2. COMMENT: WHILE NUANCED ROMANIAN DOWNGRADING OF SOVIET ANNIVERSARY IS NOT SO MARKED AS TO BE CLEARLY OFFENSIVE, IT DOES REFLECT CURRENTLY CAUTIOUS BALANCE BETWEEN DESIRE TO SHOW INDEPENDENCE AND DEFERENCE THAT STILL MUST BE ACCORDED TO "FRATERNAL" ROMANIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. SYMBOLIC OF THIS IS JUXTAPOSITION IN SCINTEIA (NOV. 7) OF ARTICLES ON ANNIVERSARY WITH PHOTO OF CEAUSESCU WITH ABBA EBAN AND ARTICLE ON THEIR OFFICIAL TALKS AND LUNCHEON TOGETHER.
MARTENS

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